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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer: Gracious God, yesterday was the eighty-first anniversary of the passage of the nineteenth amendment establishing women's suffrage. Thank You for the heroines of our heritage as we celebrate progress in the rights of women in our society. We thank You for the impact of women on American history. We praise You for our founding Pilgrim foremothers and the role they served in establishing our Nation, for the strategic role of women in the battle for independence, for the incredible courage of women who helped push back the frontier, for the suffragettes who fought for the right to vote and the place of women in our society, for the dynamic women who have given crucial leadership in each period of our history.

Today, Gracious God, we give You thanks for the women who serve here in the Senate; for the outstanding women Senators, for the women who serve as officers and in strategic positions in the ongoing work of the Senate, and for the many women throughout the Senate family who glorify You by their loyalty and excellence.

In Your holy name we pray. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable GEORGE V. VOINOVICH, a Senator from the State of Ohio, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VOINOVICH). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business, not to extend beyond the hour of 12:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

The Senator from Idaho is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business, as the Chair has mentioned, until 12:30 p.m., with Senator DURBIN and Senator THOMAS in control of 1 hour each.

Following morning business, the Senate will recess for the weekly party conferences. As a reminder, the official Senate picture will be taken at 2:15 p.m. today. I encourage my colleagues to be prompt in an attempt to complete the photo in a timely manner.

When the Senate reconvenes, it is hoped the Senate can begin consideration of the Department of Defense authorization bill. Senators who intend to offer amendments to this important legislation are encouraged to keep their amendments germane in an effort to complete action on the bill prior to the end of the week.

I thank my colleagues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant minority leader is recognized.

ITEMS TO ACCOMPLISH BEFORE THE JULY 4 RECESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I look forward to this period of time prior to the July 4 recess, as does the entire minority. We are hopeful we can make progress on the appropriations bills, which certainly need to be accomplished. Also, I hope there will be an opportunity to do something about the Patients' Bill of Rights, prescription drugs; that we can complete work on

the minimum wage, and the juvenile justice bill.

A number of these matters have been languishing, waiting for the conference committees to act. We have all had our time at home, and we are ready to go. We hope we can move forward, I repeat, with the appropriations bills and these matters I have outlined.

BUILDING A BIPARTISAN COMPROMISE

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I certainly concur with my colleague that I hope we can move forward on these critical issues. We are now working hard at accomplishing some of those efforts. As he mentioned, the conference on the Patients' Bill of Rights is at work. We hope we can build a bipartisan compromise as necessary to produce that kind of program and law and protection for the American consumers of health care.

There is a great deal of work to be done. I hope we can come together in a united and bipartisan way to resolve some of these issues, to move the appropriations bills forward, to make sure we complete our business in a timely manner.

Of course, I understand, as I think my colleague from Nevada understands, that is going to take cooperation from both sides. Tragically, and sadly, we got into a bit of a nonproductive period prior to the Memorial Day recess. I hope the recess has cleared the air and we can come back in a productive way.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2645 AND H.R. 3244

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I understand there are two bills at the desk due for their second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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